

example, unintentional motor vehicle (MV) injuries was the ninth leading cause of death in 2000 for number of deaths, but it ranked third based on YPLL. This is because MV injuries tend to occur among younger persons, where the potential life lost is far greater than for older persons. Causes of death where more young people are dying rank higher on YPLL than on number of deaths. A prominent example is deaths due to perinatal conditions. On a similar note, we can see that cerebrovascular disease accounts for a far greater number of deaths than unintentional MV injuries, but results in fewer YPLL. This is because cerebrovascular disease tends to affect an older population than MV injuries.

When comparing YPLL versus number of deaths for males and females, the two groups show some interesting differences. For example, when examining deaths due to heart disease, we can see that there are 413 more deaths for females than for males; however, males have almost 40,000 more years of life lost than do females. This means that males die from heart disease at a younger age than do females. Similarly, the average YPLL per death for other unintentional injuries is much lower for

women than for men due substantially to deaths among women from falls, which occur at an older age.

Tables 4-7 contain the 2000 YPLL by race, ranked by YPLL. Although the majority of causes show similar ranks by YPLL and by number of deaths across the four racial groups, there are some dissimilarities. For example, although Alzheimer's Disease ranks much higher on the number of deaths for Whites than for the other racial groups, it ranks low in YPLL for all the races—because Alzheimer's deaths occur at the oldest ages. When we compare African Americans to the other racial groups, nephritis and nephrosis rank relatively high on the number of deaths for African Americans, whereas it is lower for the other racial groups. Nephritis also ranks somewhat higher in YPLL for African Americans than it does for the other racial groups. Though African Americans have less than one-third the total number of deaths as Whites, the number and ranking of deaths and YPLL for perinatal conditions, homicide, and HIV are higher for African Americans. It should be noted that deaths to American Indians are most likely underreported due to misclassification on death certificates.^{1, 6}

**Table 4: Rank by YPLL for Whites
North Carolina Resident Deaths, 2000**

Cause	YPLL	# of Deaths	Avg YPLL per Death	Rank on # of Deaths
All Causes	839,839	55,241	15.2	
1 Cancer	198,357	12,375	16.0	2
2 Heart Disease	188,548	15,419	12.2	1
3 Unintentional MV Injuries	47,444	1,197	39.6	9
4 Cerebrovascular Disease	44,481	4,401	10.1	3
5 Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	40,794	3,244	12.6	4
6 Other Unintentional Injuries	35,919	1,428	25.2	7
7 Suicide	29,575	836	35.4	10
8 Perinatal Conditions	21,509	285	75.5	15
9 Diabetes Mellitus	19,115	1,305	14.6	8
10 Pneumonia & Influenza	16,023	1,596	10.0	5
11 Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	13,536	614	22.0	13
12 Birth Defects	12,937	229	56.5	16
13 Homicide	12,434	289	43.0	14
14 Alzheimer's Disease	11,573	1,507	7.7	6
15 Nephritis/Nephrotic Syn/Nephrosis	9,526	824	11.6	11
16 Septicemia	9,190	700	13.1	12
17 SIDS	3,553	47	75.6	18
18 HIV	3,425	89	38.5	17
All Other Causes	121,901	8,856	13.8	